

1856 to 1890 England's National Debt was reduced by no less a sum than 114 million pounds. During the same period the burden of taxation was greatly reduced. To Mr. Gladstone, who was no less than four times Prime Minister of England, belongs the imperishable glory of taking off more taxes from the people of Great Britain than any other Prime Minister.

I may conclude this glance at Mr. Gladstone's career as a Statesman in the words of John Stewart Mill:

"If ever there was a Statesman in whom the spirit of improvement was incarnate, of whose career as a minister the characteristic feature has been to seek out things which required, or, admitted of improvement, instead of being compelled, or even solicited to do it, that honor belongs to William Ewart Gladstone."

III. THE ORATOR

Justin McCarthy in "History of our own Times" gives this estimate "We are not inclined to call Gladstone the greatest English orator of our times, when we recall some of the finest speeches of Bright. but, if we regard parliamentary speaking as a mere instrument of parliamentary business and debate, then Gladstone is the greatest, English orator of our times, for he had a richer combination of gifts than any man we can recall, and he used them oftenest with effect.

The Daily Telegraph, of London was one of those penny papers which owed their existence and prosperity to Mr. Gladstone's abolition of the paper duty. On the day following his death, the Daily Telegraph contained a full and extended review of Mr. Gladstone's early history, home life, literary labors, and parliamentary career.

In referring to his powers as an orator, that article said: "His oratory in the House of Commons was unfailingly effective. Even when he had a bad case, and a losing side he always managed to charm that assembly." After referring to the power and quality of his voice and other matters connected with his influence as a public speaker, the article concluded by saying: "Almost invariably Mr. Gladstone spoke in that tone of well-bred tranquillity which is the highest oratorical art in an English assembly."

He was not always however so reserved and quiet. Who can forget that last great speech of "The Grand Old Man," then 84 years of age, when on Feb. 17, 1893, he stood on his feet in the House of Commons for four consecutive hours, and poured forth appeal after appeal, at times tearful and touching, in behalf of the autonomy and self-government of down-trodden Ireland?

IV. THE MAN.

I have reserved to the last, as

by far the most important, our glance at Mr. Gladstone as a man. It was his great qualities as a man that fitted him to stand out so prominently before England, the Empire, and the World, as a Student and a Scholar, as a Statesman and a Financier, as a born Leader of men and an Orator.

His heart was as sincere as his talents were great. Mr. Gladstone was eminently a man of character, and character always carries with it dignity and power. His was (it has been justly said) that devotion to right in a large way, and on a generous scale, which evermore abides in the world's memory and love.

And what was the secret of Mr. Gladstone's high moral character? What was the secret of his untiring devotion to duty? Of the strict integrity and high aims of his whole political career?

The secret may be soon told. He was a humble and consistent follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was a thoroughly christian man. Dr. Creighton, the present Bishop of London, gave this testimony to the great departed Statesman shortly after his death. "Mr. Gladstone possessed the high aspirations of a christian man; he never did anything unbecoming a christian; he went through the struggles, the trials, and the difficulties that over beset political life, and never swerved from the highest standard of our christian life."

As a thoroughly christian man he loved his Bible and he loved his Saviour. One of his latest works, to which reference has been made, showed how this distinguished Statesman valued God's Holy Word. In 1877 Mr. Gladstone had occasion to write to a friend who was the teacher of a Men's Bible Class in Manchester, after giving him some good and wise advice as to the best way of studying the Bible, he concludes his letter with these weighty words;

"One thing I especially commend to your thoughts. Christianity is Christ, and nearness to Him and to His image should be the end of all your efforts. We are variously called to various works. But we all require to feed in green pastures, and to drink of the wells of salvation. For this purpose the Scriptures are incomparably simple to all those who are willing to be fed there from."

Several years later in 1893, a friend on this side of the Atlantic wrote to Mr. Gladstone making an enquiry respecting his Christian belief. The venerable statesman briefly responded in memorable words, which I pray may ever abide with you:

All that I write, all that I think, all that I hope for, all that I live for, is founded on faith in the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one central joy of my poor wayward life.

Could Christian faith be declared with more positiveness and precision, with more comprehension yet brevity? These few words from the pen of England's greatest Premier reveal the Christian man, in the simplicity of a faith that looks up to God as revealed in Jesus Christ, in the ardor of a hope centred in God, and in the constancy of a love that delights to do with fidelity the will of God.

Such men are a nation's brightest ornament, and a nation's strongest safeguard. For lack of such (says one) fell Ancient Assyria, and queenly Persia, and scholarly Greece, and majestic Rome. May such Christian Statesmen never be wanting to our England and our Canada.

There needs only one more touch to complete this portrait of our great departed statesman.

He was not only a man of the highest moral character.

He was not only an intelligent and reverent student of his bible.

He was not only a devout, sincere, and humble minded Christian man.

He was also through his long life a thoroughly loyal churchman. He prized the ordinances of the Church of England. Above all he valued the Holy Communion of his Saviour's Body and Blood, as ministered according to the venerable ritual of England's ancient church.

It is stated on most reliable authority that since the year 1842, (that is, very shortly after he came into possession of Hawarden Castle) Mr. Gladstone, when in good health, and at home was never known to omit the Sunday morning service at half past eight at his parish church, three quarters of a mile distant from the castle.

What an example to some lazy, and irregular church-goers in this Canada of ours!

I commend Mr. Gladstone's example to you as a lover of his bible; as a lover and humble follower of the Lord Jesus, "The Rock of Ages, cleft for me"; and as a lover of the Church and her ordinances.

Like him, let us love our bibles, reading them with reverence and prayer.

Let us love and follow our Lord Jesus Christ, remembering that this is our baptismal profession, "to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be like unto Him".

Let us love our ancient church, and prize her ordinances more and more, ready to re-echo the words of the late Bishop of Western New York,

"I love the Church, the holy Church,

That o'er our life presides, The birth, the bridal, and the grave,

And many an hour besides! Be mine, through life, to live in

her,
And when the Lord shall call,
To die in her - the spouse of
Christ,
The Mother of us all."

THE PARISH OF
FREDERICTON.

Continued from page 1.

con of Fredericton; Rev. Canon Ketchum, D. D., rector of St. Andrews; Rev. Canon Deever, M. A., ex-Rector of St. Paul's, St. John; Rev. Canon Roberts, M. A., Rector of Fredericton; Rev. Canon Forsyth, M. A., Rector of Chatham. There are also four lay members of the chapter, viz. George A. Schofield, Esq., T. Carleton Allen, Esq., A. F. Street, Esq., and the Hon. J. P. Burchill, speaker of the House of Assembly.

The Rev. George Goodridge Roberts is the present Rector of Fredericton, and has been so for the last twenty-three years. He was formerly Rector of Sackville and Dorchester in this diocese. The work of the Church in the city and neighbourhood is conducted with much energy and success, and the greatest harmony subsists between the Cathedral and the other Churches.

ENGAGEMENT
BIRTHDAY
WEDDING
RINGS
JEWELS, JEWELLERY.

GIFTS FOR BRIDES.

Padding dishes, Fruit dishes, Pitchers, Trays, Cake Baskets, Bon Bon dishes, Butter coolers, Castors, Clocks, etc., etc.

WATCHES.

Gold, Gold-filled, Silver.

SPOONS, FORKS, KNIVES.

Write for particulars if you want anything in the Jewellery line. . . .

M. S. BROWN & CO.,

Wholesale and Retail Jewellers.

HALIFX,

N. S.

Out of the darkness into light
When you scratch one of THE
G. & G. Flewelling Mfg. Co's
MATCHES

The only match suitable for our foggy climate
The large sale we have proves the quality.
SEND FOR CIRCULAR—
HAMPTON or ST. JOHN, N. B.

Wanted at Once.

an agent in every parish for the "Church Observer" and "Sign of the Cross." Liberal commission.